



SOTC Worship
March 19 2023
Fourth Sunday in Lent

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME

GATHERING SONG

OUR FATHER, WE HAVE WANDERED

ELW 606

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

After a call to confession, Pastor Aleese invites the congregation prays together:

Let us pray:

Almighty God, forgive us for failing to take responsibility when we have erred. Forgive us for displacing blame on others. Forgive us for pointing our fingers at others, causing hurt and division. Forgive us for putting our heads in the sand and ignoring people in need. Forgive us for making false assumptions and quick judgments against your children. Forgive us for failing to be kind to one another. Forgive us, Lord, and in your abundant mercy reconcile us to you and to one another, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Dear friends in Christ, hear the good news: our God is a merciful God who does not punish, hold grudges, or keep score. When you suffer, God weeps. When you lose your way, God comes running. And when you sin, God forgives + you through Christ's death and resurrection. May almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit as you live restored to Christ and to one another.
Thanks be to God! Amen.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
be with you all.
And also with you.

KYRIE

ELW pg. 147

OPENING PRAYER

Everlasting God, by your tender mercy, you sent your Son to take upon himself our flesh and suffer death on a cross for our salvation. Give us a true longing to be free from sin, and turn us in repentance to your grace. This we pray through Jesus Christ, our crucified and risen Savior. Amen.

WORD

CHILDREN'S SERMON

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

In preparation to receive God's Word, we light the Christ candle and pray for illumination from God's word. Take a moment for silent reflection.

PSALM: PSALM 23

¹The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

²**He makes me lie down in green pastures;**

he leads me beside still waters;

³**he restores my soul.**

He leads me in right paths

for his name's sake.

⁴**Even though I walk through the darkest valley,**

I fear no evil;

for you are with me;

your rod and your staff —

they comfort me.

⁵You prepare a table before me

in the presence of my enemies;

you anoint my head with oil;

my cup overflows.

⁶**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me**

all the days of my life,

and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD

my whole life long.

READING: EPHESIANS 5:8-14

⁸Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—⁹for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord.

¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to

mention what such people do secretly; ¹³but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

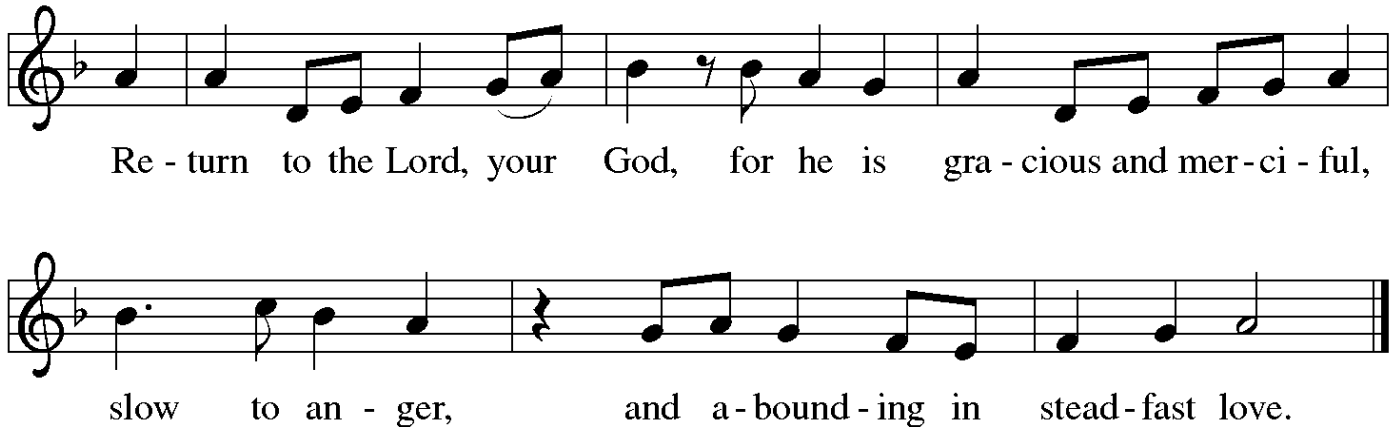
“Sleeper, awake!

Rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,
slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

GOSPEL: JOHN 9:1-41

The Holy Gospel according to John, the 9th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” ⁶When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, ⁷saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” ⁹Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” ¹⁰But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” ¹¹He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” ¹²They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.”

¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.” But

others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. ¹⁷So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.”

¹⁸The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” ²⁰His parents answered, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; ²¹but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” ²²His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

²⁴So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” ²⁵He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” ²⁶They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” ²⁷He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” ²⁸Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” ³⁰The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³²Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” ³⁴They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

³⁵Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” ³⁶He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” ³⁷Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” ³⁸He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him. ³⁹Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.” ⁴⁰Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” ⁴¹Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you O Christ

SERMON

We come with ques - tions as sum - ing that there will be an -
 Here is the mys - t'ry we claim as the fol - lowers of Je -
 God help us live in - to mys - t'ry be - yond com - pre - hen -

- swers Set - ting the world in an or - der that o - beys our
 - sus: Christ has died, Christ is raised, Christ dai - ly comes to re -
 - sion Qui - et our minds al - ways clam - or - ing for some di -

gram - deem - rec - mar us tion We want to know where Spir - it's
 Grace free, not earned, peace whe - ther or
 Give us your peace with all that

riv - er will flow Frus - trat - ed by her me an -
 not we de - serve God works be - yond rules and boun -
 we can't per - ceive Hold - ing us with - in the ten -

- ders
 - d'ries
 - sion

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Response to "Lord in your mercy" is "hear our prayer."

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always!

And also with you!

Congregation is invited to share a sign of peace with others. Pull out your cell phones and send a text and/or a picture to someone, sharing the peace of Christ with them as well!

MEAL

OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

GREAT THANKSGIVING

ELW pg. 152

PREFACE

ELW pg. 153

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ELW pg. 153

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

In the midst of the prayer, the response to “as we proclaim the mystery of faith” is
Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

LORD’S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

Together we receive God’s gift of love given to us in the sacrament of communion. All are welcome at the table, where Christ is our host.

Following the directions of the ushers, the congregation will be invited forward in groups. Each group will stand before the altar to receive the bread and wine/juice. After receiving both bread and wine, remain with your group until Pastor Aleese offers a short blessing, dismissing each group to return to their seats. Those not desiring to receive communion may come forward for a blessing.

LAMB OF GOD

ELW pg. 154

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

SENDING

BLESSING

SENDING SONG

AMAZING GRACE, HOW SWEET THE SOUND

ELW 779

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God!

Copyright acknowledgements:

Music covered under Augsburg Fortress License #SB135131, CCLI License #1141706, One License #738128-A. Scripture from New Revised Standard Version Bible, © 1989 the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission.

Prelude: When I Survey the Wondrous Cross. Text and Music: Lloyd Larson. Text and Music: © 2002 Pilot Point Music. Covered under One License subscription. O Sacred Head, Now Wounded. Text and Music: Hans Leo Hassler. Text and Music: © 2007 Alfred Sacred. Covered under One License subscription.

Gathering Song: Our Father, We Have Wandered. Text: Kevin Nichols, 1929-2006. Music: Hans Leo Hassler, 1564-1612; arr. Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685-1750. Text: © 1981 International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc. Music: Public Domain. Covered under One License subscription.

Hymn of the Day: We Come with Questions. Text: Anna Strickland (2022). Music: Erneuertem Gesangbuch (1665); harm. W. Sterndale Bennett (19th cent.) Text: © Anna Strickland, 2021. Commissioned by A Sanctified Art, LLC.

Offering Song: In Breaking of the Bread. Text and Music: Bob Hurd. Text and Music: © 2006 OCP. Covered under One License subscription.

Communion Song: Broken Body of Christ. Text: Lenora Rand. Music: Gary Rand. Text and Music: © 2019 Plural Guild Music. Covered under A Sanctified Art LLC subscription.

Sending Song: Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound. Text: John Newton, 1725-1807, akt., sts. 1-4; anonymous, st. 5. Music: W. Walker, Southern Harmony, 1835; arr. Edwin O. Excel, 1851-1921, alt. Text and Music: Public Domain.

Confession and Forgiveness, Invitation to Communion, and Blessing adapted by Rev. A. Kenitzer from Rev. Sarah R. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org. Eucharistic prayer adapted by Rev. A. Kenitzer from Rev. Mike Blair, Luther College Campus Ministries.